

Economics 695/697 Research Methods III and IV

Instructor:	Robert Oxoby	Lecture Location:	Zoom
Phone:	403.220.2586	Lecture Days/Time:	MW 9:00–11:45
Email:	oxoby@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	via Zoom		
Office Hours:	by appointment	(Spring and Summer 2021)	

Course Description:

This is a joint Spring/Summer independent study course for MA students. The objective of this course is to provide you with an opportunity to conduct independent research. Specifically, during this part of your MA program, you will:

1. Find a topic of your interest and specify an appropriate research question,
2. Identify an appropriate research method to address your question,
3. Learn how to apply empirical and theoretical skills that you have acquired from core curriculum courses to your specific question, and
4. Communicate with clarity the concepts, methods, and results of your research.

The instructor's role throughout this course is to support you in undertaking your research when you require assistance. The onus is on the student to act promptly and proactively in seeking assistance. The student assumes full responsibility for completing and presenting the research in accordance with the timetable provided below.

Course Outline:

Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

Items in bold are compulsory Zoom meetings at the designated class time (Calgary-time).

Spring term:

May 5, Course Meeting (9am-12pm)

May 10, Presentations (9am-12pm)

May 19, Due: Introduction and Literature Review

June 2, Due: Methods and Data Section

June 16, Due: Preliminary Results

Summer term

July 5, Due: First Draft, Course Meeting (9am-12pm)

July 14, Due: Peer Review Reports

July 28, Due: Second Full Draft Due

August 9 and 11, Final Presentations (9am-12pm)

August 17, Due: Final Paper

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Successful completion of the fall and winter terms in the Economics MA program

Required Textbook(s):

There are no required textbooks.

Recommended Readings:

- Bellemare, M. (2020), "How to Write Applied Papers in Economics," <https://marcfbellemare.com/wordpress/13712>
- Gopen, G. and J. Swan. 1990. "The Science of Scientific Writing," *American Scientist*, November/December.
- Hamermesh, D. (1992), "The Young Economist's Guide to Professional Etiquette," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 6(1), p. 169-79.
- Huff, D. 1954. *How To Lie With Statistics*. Norton, New York.
- King, S. (2010), *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*.
- McCloskey, D.N. 2000. *Economical Writing*. Long Grove: Waveland Press.
- McCloskey, D.N. 1998. *The Rhetoric of Economics*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Nikolov, P. (2013), "Writing Tips For Economics Research Papers," <https://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~pnikolov/resources/writingtips.pdf>
- O'Connor, P.T. 1996. *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. Riverhead Books, New York.
- O'Connor, P.T. (1996), *Woe Is I*
- Thomson, W. (1999), "The Young Person's Guide to Writing Economic Theory," *Journal of Economic Literature* 37(1), p. 157-183.
- Thomson, W. 2011. *A Guide for the Young Economist*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press
- Swales, J. and C. Feak (2005), *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: A Course for Nonnative Speakers of English*. University of Michigan Press.
- Varian, H. (1997), "How to Build an Economic Model in your Spare Time," in *Passion and Craft: Economists at Work*.
- Wyrick, T.L. 1994. *The Economist's Handbook: a research and writing guide*. NY: West Pub.

Online Delivery:

This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student. The instructor will make an effort to provide reasonable accommodations and flexibility as circumstances require. Students are expected to raise with the instructor at the beginning of the semester any potential concerns that require such accommodations.

In order to remotely participate in online courses, students will need to have a computer with a current and updated operating system (macOS or Windows will work with all university-supported online learning technologies), a current and updated web browser installed – the latest versions of Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge will help to avoid compatibility issues, secure and reliable internet, microphone / headphones, webcam (optional), scanner (or camera to scan your work).

Desire2Learn:

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Grade Determination/Assessment:

There are no exams for this course. Each course component will be assigned a letter grade and weighted according to the following:

Spring Semester

First Oral Presentation – 20%
 Introduction and Literature Review – 30%
 Methods and Data Section – 30%
 Preliminary Results – 20%

Summer Semester

First Draft – 10%
 Peer Review – 10%
 Second Draft – 20%
 Final Oral Presentation – 30%
 Final Paper – 30%

The official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during the instructor's office hours.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

Academic Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf> and http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty_0.pdf.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note taking only unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf. Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Student Organizations:

Faculty of Grad Studies website: <http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home>

Graduate Students Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

Professional Development for Grad Students

Workshops and resources can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/>

Economics Graduate Association: <http://econ.ucalgary.ca/ega/>

Student Support and Resources:

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Notes:

Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.